

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 11 and 21 as follows (a complete claim listing is provided below pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121):

1           1. (Currently Amended) A braking apparatus, comprising:  
2           a first rotating member having at least one rigid stop thereon;  
3           a plurality of flexible stops which are selectively movable toward said first  
4   rotating member to engage said at least one rigid stop; and  
5           an actuator which is slidable to selectively engage said plurality of flexible  
6   stops and cause said flexible stops to move toward said first rotating member to  
7   engage the rigid stop on said first rotating member;  
8           wherein said actuator is arranged such that sliding movement thereof changes  
9   the number of said flexible stops engaging said rigid stop to provide incremental  
10 braking.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

1           3. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
2   actuator is slidable along a circumferential path spaced from said first rotating  
3   member.

1           4. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
2   flexible stops are arranged in a plurality of rows with each row comprising a plurality  
3   of the flexible stops, and said actuator is slidable to selectively engage said flexible

4 stops to move all of the flexible stops in each row simultaneously toward said first  
5 rotating member.

1 5. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first  
2 rotating member has a plurality of rigid stops thereon, and said rigid stops are spaced  
3 circumferentially around said first rotating member and disposed in a generally axial  
4 direction on an outer cylindrical surface of said first rotating member.

1 6. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said rows  
2 of flexible stops are arranged generally parallel to said rigid stops.

1 7. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of  
2 a length of said flexible stops to a height of said rigid stops is about 12 to 1.

1 8. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 actuator comprises a sliding member having at least one beveled surface for engaging  
3 the flexible stops and moving the flexible stops toward the first rotating member.

1 9. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 actuator comprises a sliding member for engaging the flexible stops, and an interface  
3 between said sliding member and said flexible stops comprises a beveled surface for  
4 moving the flexible stops toward the first rotating member.

1           10. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 flexible stops have longitudinal axes and are movable along their respective  
3 longitudinal axes toward and away from said first rotating member.

1           11. (Currently Amended) The braking apparatus according to claim 10,  
2 wherein said sliding member is arranged to slide along a ~~circumferential~~ path that  
3 intersects said longitudinal axes of said flexible stops.

1           12. (Original) A braking apparatus, comprising:  
2           a first rotating member having a plurality of rigid stops thereon, said rigid  
3 stops being spaced circumferentially around an outer cylindrical surface of said first  
4 rotating member;  
5           a plurality of flexible stops arranged in a plurality of rows, said flexible stops  
6 being selectively movable toward said first rotating member from a disengaged  
7 position into an engaged position in which the flexible stops engage said rigid stops as  
8 the first rotating member rotates; and  
9           an actuator which is operable to move a selected number of rows of said  
10 flexible stops into their engaged positions to provide incremental braking of said first  
11 rotating member.

1           13. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said  
2 rows of flexible stops are staggered so that the flexible stops of adjacent rows are  
3 offset from one another in both circumferential and axial directions of said first  
4 rotating member.

1           14. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said  
2 rows of flexible stops each comprises a plurality of flexible stops arranged along a  
3 line which is parallel to an axis of rotation of the first rotating member.

1           15. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said  
2 rows of flexible stops are arranged in a matrix and held in position by a grid such that  
3 the flexible stops of adjacent rows are not in circumferential alignment with each  
4 other.

1           16. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said  
2 rigid stops each comprises a blunt leading face projecting radially outwardly from an  
3 outer surface of said first rotating member for engaging said flexible stops.

1           17. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said  
2 rigid stops each further comprises a tapered trailing face that tapers from an outer  
3 point of the blunt leading face to the outer surface of the first rotating member.

1           18. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said  
2 flexible stops each comprises a blunt leading face for engaging said rigid stops and a  
3 tapered trailing face.

1           19. (Original) A method of braking, comprising the steps of:  
2           providing a first rotating member having rigid stops spaced circumferentially  
3           therearound, and a plurality of rows of flexible stops which are movable toward said  
4           first rotating member to engage said rigid stops; and  
5           moving a selected number of rows of said flexible stops toward said first  
6           rotating member to engage the rigid stops and provide incremental braking of the first  
7           rotating member.

1           20. (Original) The method of braking according to claim 19, wherein said  
2           step of moving said flexible stops comprises sliding an actuator into engagement with  
3           said flexible stops to move said flexible stops toward said first rotating member one  
4           entire row at a time.

1           21. (Currently Amended) The method of braking according to claim 20,  
2           ~~wherein said rows of flexible stops are each arranged along a line extending generally~~  
3           ~~parallel to an axis of rotation of the first rotating member, and~~ wherein said rows of  
4           flexible stops are staggered such that the flexible stops of adjacent rows are not in  
5           circumferential alignment with each other.